

Iraq says 13,000 Iranian guards killed

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq on Monday reported more than 13,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards killed in a six-day Gulf war battle near the southern Iraqi port city of Basra. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military source as saying the dead belonged to 43 Revolutionary Guards battalions forming six divisions and a brigadier. Iraq said on Tuesday that Iran had launched a three-pronged offensive west and south of the Fish Lake, an Iraqi defensive line some 10 kilometres from Basra and had managed to gain some "bootholes". Iraq's elite Presidential Guard launched counter-attacks on Saturday and were reported to have driven the Iranians back. The military source said seven Iranian warplanes, one helicopter gunship and two reconnaissance planes were shot down. Iraq has conceded the loss of one jet. The source also said Iraqi forces destroyed 50 Iranian tanks, hundreds of vehicles and other war material. Iran on Thursday launched a second attack on the central sector northeast of Baghdad. Iraq said it pushed the Iranians back, killing and wounding 1,500 men.

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Justice ministers postpone debate on civil status law

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab justice ministers on Monday continued a debate of draft laws referred to them and decided to postpone discussion of a draft civil status law to the next session of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers. The general inspector of the Ministry of Justice and the conference's spokesman, Majed Ghumaa, said that the council's general secretary, Mohammad Miko, reviewed activities of the council's general secretariat during Monday's morning session. He also reviewed studies on civil and criminal courts legislation in the Arab World and technologies analysis and classification and indexing of legislation in force in Arab countries.

Star receives Haj Hassan

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar Monday received Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan for discussions on bilateral relations and means of enhancing them in the interests of both countries. The meeting was attended by the Tunisian minister of social affairs and Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Talal Al Hassan. Mr. Haj Hassan is in Tunis to chair the executive bureau of the Arab Social Affairs Ministers' Council which opens today.

Panel on unemployment finalises findings

AMMAN (Petra) — A ministerial committee entrusted with remedying unemployment in Jordan Monday held its final meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali and reviewed recommendations made by the committee in preparation for submitting them to the Cabinet for endorsement.

Assad to visit Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will visit the Soviet Union later this month, the Soviet news agency TASS said Monday. It said Mr. Assad would arrive the second half of April but gave no further details. Mr. Assad's last official visit to Moscow was in June 1985.

Egypt holds second round of elections

CAIRO (Agencies) — Runoff elections were held on Monday to elect nine independents to Egypt's new parliament, which like the last one is dominated by President Hosni Mubarak's governing party. In each of the nine constituencies, the contest was between the two candidates who won the largest number of votes in the first round last Monday but fell short of the minimum 20 per cent of the vote required by law.

Pakistani jurist dies

LAHORE (R) — A top Pakistani jurist and human rights campaigner, Mahmud Ali Kasuri, who served as law minister under executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, died Monday aged 76 after a long illness, his family said. Mr. Kasuri was best known as a lawyer who did not charge a fee for defending political prisoners.

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Israeli troops kill Birzeit student and injure 7 others

University ordered closed for 4 months
Over 100 Palestinians held without trial

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian student and wounded seven other demonstrators on Monday, in a clash at Birzeit University in the occupied West Bank, a university official said.

The Israeli army ordered the closure of the Palestinian university for four months.

Students said the incident, the worst at Birzeit since two people were shot dead in a similar clash four months ago, was sparked by Jewish West Bank settlers who went to the campus following tension in the area.

University officials said the army arrested about 20 students. "The old campus, where the shooting occurred, is still tense and the military are surrounding the campus. Two hundred students are besieged inside," the university official said.

Palestinians identified the dead student as Musa Hanafi, 23, from Rafah in the occupied Gaza Strip.

An army sergeant turned back journalists and area residents

trying to reach the campus at a military roadblock three kilometres from the university.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors events in the occupied territories, said the clash started when soldiers surrounded the university, preventing students from entering and leaving. Students began throwing stones at the soldiers and the soldiers forced its way onto campus.

Birzeit has about 3,000 students and is funded by Arab countries and private donors.

Birzeit, 30 kilometres north of Jerusalem, was placed under military curfew. Reporters permitted into the town several hours after the confrontation saw rocks littering the streets, smouldering garbage and partially burned tires.

Recent anti-Israeli protests have pressed for improved living conditions for Arab prisoners in Israeli jails and Jewish settlers say they have warned authorities of increasing Arab petrol bomb attacks and stone-throwing.

Merchants in neighbouring Ramallah sheltered their stores to show sympathy for the students and to avoid clashes with the Israeli army, which was patrolling the town north of Jerusalem in force.

The incident came hours after the Israeli army announced it had detained nine Palestinians overnight, including an alleged leading supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), in response to anti-Israel resistance activities.

They included Faisal Husseini of Arab Jerusalem, viewed by many as an unofficial spokesman for the PLO, and Ma'moun Sayyed of Ramallah, a former editor of the daily Al Fajr.

Their detentions brought to about 50 the number of Palestinians being held under "administrative" procedures for holding persons viewed as security risks for up to six months without trial.

Recent anti-Israeli protests have pressed for improved living conditions for Arab prisoners in Israeli jails and Jewish settlers say they have warned authorities of increasing Arab petrol bomb attacks and stone-throwing.

"This (attack) obliges us to step up the war against (resistance) and guarantee the roads for Jewish settlement," he said.

Prince Hassan was unanimously elected honorary president of the council.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted as saying in an interview with Yediot Aherot that Saturday's attack would not stop Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

"This (attack) obliges us to step up the war against (resistance) and guarantee the roads for Jewish settlement," he said.

Shultz and Shevardnadze hold extended talks on missile deal

MOSCOW (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, on the first day of a new round of arms talks, on Monday arranged an unscheduled session likely to last late into the night.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters the third meeting of the day was to begin at 8:30 p.m. But he added: "I would not read anything positive into that."

Redman spoke to reporters at the gates of the U.S. ambassador's residence, where Mr. Shultz was attending dinner.

Earlier, Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze had two sessions of talks and lunch together. Their discussions centred on a possible medium-range missile accord that would be the first superpower arms deal in nearly a decade.

The two men, accompanied by senior aides and arms control experts, met at an elegant 19th century mansion in central Moscow.

Shultz said to have been briefed on Peres-Soviet meetings

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres sent a senior aide to Helsinki to brief U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Mr. Peres' meetings with Soviet officials in Rome last week, Israeli officials said.

The aide, Yossi Beilin, met Mr. Shultz's aides in Helsinki on Monday before the U.S. secretary of state flew on to Moscow for talks on arms control.

Mr. Peres held talks with two Soviet officials on the prospects of Soviet participation in an international conference on Middle East peace and of increased Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

Mr. Peres has urged Moscow to renew its ties with Israel, severed during the 1967 Middle East war, and ease restrictions on Jewish emigration if it wants a role in the Middle East peace process.

The Soviet ambassador to Kuwait has ruled out the resumption of diplomatic relations between his country and Israel, but predicted the number of Jewish emigrants would increase, a newspaper reported Monday.

Prospects for clinching a deal improved at the end of February when the Kremlin dropped its demand that any agreement must depend on resolving the deadlocked dispute over the U.S. "Star Wars" programme.

Since then, the West has raised the issue of Soviet superiority in short-range missiles, but last week Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev offered to start parallel talks on this class of rockets as well.

If a medium-range agreement were signed, it would be the first superpower arms accord since the 1979 SALT-II accord on strategic weapons. U.S. President Ronald Reagan withdrew last November from that treaty, which was never ratified.

Mr. Shultz says he is ready to discuss a wide range of other disarmament issues in Moscow and has brought a large team of experts. Soviet officials say they are also ready for "constructive talks" on all arms problems.

Egypt unlikely to intervene in Gulf — Abu Ghazala

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Egyptian Defence Minister Field Marshal Mohammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala said in remarks published on Monday he did not think Egypt would intervene in the Gulf as a result of the Iran-Iraq war.

Asked if Egypt would intervene if Iran gained the upper hand in the 6 1/2-year-old conflict, Field Marshal Abu Ghazala told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Ittihad: "No state can ask another to help it or intervene without the completion of necessary studies."

This has not happened in the Gulf and I do not think it will happen, especially since Egypt has always said it will not intervene in the affairs of any other state."

But he repeated earlier Egyptian statements that the security of Egypt was inseparable from that of the Gulf. Egypt backs Iraq and has close ties with Gulf Arab states despite the absence of diplomatic relations, broken after the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

"We are speaking of sovereign countries which have their strategic decisions and have the first and last right to specify the form, type and timing of any action or cooperation," Marshal Abu Ghazala said.

He also saw no quick end to the war.

Egypt has said it was selling arms to Iraq but has not disclosed details.

Tindemans arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans starts an official two-day visit to Jordan on Tuesday. During the visit, Mr. Tindemans will hold talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and senior government officials.

Mr. Tindemans will also visit archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom and will hold a press conference on Thursday shortly before his departure from Amman.

Reports from Brussels said Mr. Tindemans' visit, which will also take him to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, was aimed at promoting recent EC call for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The visit comes amid a flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at breaking new life into Mideast peace efforts and follows a trip last week by His Majesty King Hussein to Belgium, The Netherlands and Britain to discuss the issue.

Mr. Tindemans, whose country currently holds the EC's rotating presidency, will visit Israel next month, but as yet has no plans to visit Syria.

Community governments imposed largely symbolic sanctions against Syria last November at Britain's request over alleged Syrian involvement in a plot to blow up an Israeli airliner in London.

Britain, particularly, is opposed to closer EC-Syria links, although Mr. Tindemans has indicated that he will have to visit Damascus if the conference is to become reality.

Mr. Tindemans' trip follows what he sees as an unexpectedly positive response from the 12-nation EC last February to the relaunch of the idea of an international conference held under UN auspices.

Mr. Tindemans, who previously said he would not visit the region unless sure of progress, says recent developments have left him optimistic, although he has stressed that formidable obstacles still remain before such a conference can be convened.

Arab Council for Child Development ends meeting after electing officials

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz, president of the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organisation (AGFUND), was elected president and Egyptian First Lady Suzanne Mubarak was elected vice-president on Monday of the newly-established Arab Council for Child Development.

The council, which was launched on Sunday with its first meeting here, concluded its sessions on Monday after discussing issues related to the establishment and functioning of the council in addition to reviewing various programmes on child health, education, culture, family and community development, resources and public information.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prince Talal co-chaired the first meeting of the council on Sunday and called on Arab governments to mobilise their resources and work towards securing a bright future for their children.

Prince Hassan was unanimously elected honorary president of the council.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted as saying in an interview with Yediot Aherot that Saturday's attack would not stop Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

"This (attack) obliges us to step up the war against (resistance) and guarantee the roads for Jewish settlement," he said.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, Egyptian First Lady Suzanne Mubarak (to the Queen's right), Mrs. Sara Al Mahdi (right), wife of the Sudanese prime minister, Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali (to the Queen's left) and Chief Chamberlain Prince Re'd Ibn Zaid attend the closing session of the constituent assembly of the Arab Council for Child Development on Monday (Petra photo)

of trustees would meet in Cairo in October. The council will start issuing leaflets and producing magazines in a move to educate Arab children, he said. A complete administrative apparatus for the council will be set up in Cairo, where the council will be headquartered, Prince Talal said.

Attending the closing session of the council were Her Majesty Queen Noor and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser Dr. Osama Al Baz. In a short speech at the session, Mrs. Mubarak thanked Crown Prince Hassan for his efforts behind setting up the council and the participants for choosing Cairo as the council's headquarters.

The board members were chosen on the basis of their respective country's size and population. The maximum number of representatives per country was set at three.

The board of trustees held its first meeting on Monday and elected Dr. Dakhil as rapporteur and Dr. Sadreddin Ibrahim as acting secretary. It also elected an executive committee with Prince Talal as chief executive. Mrs. Mubarak was deputy chief executive and Dr. Sabah, Dr. Dakhil, Dr. Hassan Ibrahim and Sheikha Ibtihal Al Khalifi as members, and Dr. Sadreddin Ibrahim as acting secretary.

Prince Talal said after the meeting that the executive committee would meet in Riyadh within two months and the board of trustees would meet in Cairo in October. The council will start issuing leaflets and producing magazines in a move to educate Arab children, he said. A complete administrative apparatus for the council will be set up in Cairo, where the council will be headquartered, Prince Talal said.

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The talks were held at the Interior Ministry under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Rajai Al Ajami and his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Ghabbash, who arrived here Monday on a three-day official visit to Jordan. Mr. Ajami welcomed the Syrian minister and an official delegation accompanying him and said that bilateral talks and meetings were within the framework of cooperation between the two countries and were of facilitating transport and travel procedures at their border points.

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Mr. Ghabbash also said that talks and meetings came as part of the two countries' efforts and endeavours to support relations in various fields.

Monday's meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by senior Interior Minister and Public Security Department (PSD) officials. On the Syrian side the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying Mr. Ghabbash.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Ghabbash said his visit to Jordan comes in response to an invitation extended to him by Mr. Ajami. He added that his talks with Jordanian officials will focus on issues of interest to Syrian and Jordanian citizens.

Later on Monday, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali met with Mr. Ghabbash

PLO factions begin reconciliation talks

From Louis K. Andoni in Algiers

FOR THE first time in four years, leaders of most of the Palestinian factions met at the opening session of a national Palestinian dialogue which started here on Monday.

The meeting, which was inaugurated by PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat and Algerian number two Sharif Mousaied, was attended by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) leader Naji Hawatmeh, Abdul Rahim Ahmad of the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), Talaat Yacoub and Mohammad Abbas of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), Suleiman Najaib of the Palestinian Communist Party (PCP) and Samir Ghosheh of the Popular Struggle Front (PSF).

The Algiers gathering, which was also attended by a big number of independent Palestinian personalities who were invited here to join in the dialogue, was extremely emotional. As soon as Mr. Arafat started his speech, the general impression was that the lengthy and complicated dialogue which started over three years ago had been crowned by success.

Kuwait to charter Soviet ships in move to protect oil shipments

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has agreed to charter tankers from the Soviet Union in a move to protect its oil exports through the war-torn Gulf, diplomatic sources said Monday.

They said the agreement followed months of talks with Moscow and Washington on ways to secure its oil lifeline after Iran started to attack Kuwaiti-connected vessels in retaliation for Kuwait's backing for Tehran's war enemy Iraq.

Diplomats expect three Soviet tankers initially to reinforce other flags already supporting Kuwait's 22-tanker fleet. They knew of no deal for Moscow to provide a naval escort for its own vessels, but "the idea of protection is implicit," one commented.

The diplomats said Soviet cargo ships bound for Kuwait in the past to unload arms and material for road delivery to Iraq were known to have sailed under escort.

The Soviet Union, Britain and France each usually keep two to three warships in or near the Gulf.

Carter confident Syria can help curb attacks

NEW YORK (R) — Syria, seeking to play a more prominent role in Middle East diplomacy, can be counted upon to curb attacks by Palestinians and Iranians under its control, former President Jimmy Carter said in an article published in *Time* magazine.

"With the eyes of the world focused on Syria, it seems possible that a tight rein will be kept on those Palestinians and Iranians in the country who might desire to commit acts of terrorism in the near future," wrote Mr. Carter, who recently toured the Middle East.

Mr. Carter also said that Syrian President Hafez Assad authorized him to say Mr. Assad supports the concept of an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Such a conference has backing from many Arab states, the Soviet Union and Western Europe, with the United States apparently in flux and Israel opposed.

Of Mr. Assad, Mr. Carter writes: "I found him to be adequately flexible concerning the format and possible procedures to be followed in a conference."

Iranian opposition reports capture of military post

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian anti-government guerrillas said Monday they captured a government military post in the western Kermanshah province, killing 13 government troops.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Contd.
22:00	News Show Contd.
22:05	News Summary
23:00	Evening Show Contd.
24:00	Close Down
BBC WORLD SERVICE	
6:30, 7:30, 13:30 Hz	
7:00 Newsdesk 07:30 A Night to Remember 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Waveguide 08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours 08:15 News 08:30 24 Hours 08:45 Reports of the Week 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Counterpoint 10:00 World News 10:00 24 Hours: News 10:30 24 Half Hour Drama 11:00 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 Training for Tomorrow 12:00 Newsdesk 12:00 British Press Review 12:30 Good Books 12:30 Friday News 12:345 People's Choice 13:00 News Summary 13:30 Questions of Faith 13:30 Half Hour Drama 14:00 World News 14:00 News About Britain 14:15 Training for Tomorrow 14:30 Album Time 15:00 Radio Newsred 15:15 Hoax 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 News 16:00 24 Hours 16:30 News 16:30 24 Hours 17:00 News 17:00 Headlines 17:30 Yet 17:45 News Summary 17:45 Hotel du Lac 18:00 Radio Newsred 18:15 Questions of Faith 18:45 Kings of Swing 19:00 World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 Here's Health 19:30 Performing Early Music 20:30 The History of Radio Comedy 20:30 Open Door Policies 20:45 Book Choice 20:15 The History of Radio Comedy 20:30 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsdesk 00:15 Performing Early Music 20:30 Vintage Chart Show 02:15 Here's Health! 02:30 Open Door Policies	
23:10	Bergerac
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9300 KHz, SW Tel: 77411-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
08:45	Just a Minute
11:00	Follow the Wind
12:00	News Summary
12:05	30-Minute Theatre
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session Contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Just a Minute
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Old Favourites
17:00	Mea from the Memory
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Sports Roundup
18:30	Music
19:00	News Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show

The People's Mujahedeen said in a telex from its Baghdad office that the commander of the base in the town of Sar-E-Pol-E-Zahab was among those killed in Friday's attack.

Jordanian anti-government guerrillas said Monday they captured a government military post in the western Kermanshah province, killing 13 government troops.

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Iraq sought to cut Iran's oil exports bringing Tehran the hard currency to finance its war machine.

Diplomats said talks with Washington and Moscow had also covered the possibility of registering Kuwaiti vessels under American and Soviet flags, and manning them with crews from those countries.

This might still be an option with the Soviet Union, they said.

But such an arrangement with the United States, or other Western countries mentioned by U.S. officials such as Britain, was fraught with legal and other problems.

Of 19 attacks blamed by Gulf shipping sources on Iran since mid-September, 15 were on vessels trading with Kuwait.

In addition to Kuwaiti victims, included British Panamanian and Liberian flag tankers on charter to Kuwait, and French and Japanese vessels carrying oil for customers.

Nearly 300 ships have been hit in the Gulf since the war started in September 1980. The "tanker war" broke out three years ago as

usually put their ships under foreign flags to avoid under their own national legislation."

Coastguard and insurance regulators were among potential obstacles named.

Diplomats said, moreover, the idea of registering Kuwaiti vessels under U.S. or Soviet flags had lost a strategic attraction — secrecy — since U.S. officials had gone public with the idea.

Iran's U.N. representative, Said Rajaei Khorassani, said last Friday the United States should not lend its flag to other shipping in the Gulf as this would not prevent Iran from stopping vessels it felt were serving Iraq.

Diplomats said they expected the chartered Soviet tankers to sail between Kuwait and Khor Fakkan on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast a short way outside the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

Soon after the start of the tanker war, Kuwait set up a transhipment terminal there, fed by shuttle ships plying the Gulf to feed cargoes to vessels wary of running the gauntlet of attack in the waterway.

While the Soviet government can guarantee that their ships will sail ... the American government cannot make any commitment on behalf of their private shipowners and trade unions," one diplomat said.

In the case of American registration for Kuwaiti vessels, he added, "they will probably have to pay tax (and) respect American trade union legislation and all kinds of things which people

Shamir reiterates opposition to international conference

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in an interview that had been known about it, he would have terminated spying by American Jonathan Pollard on Israel's behalf.

Shamir, in an interview with Time magazine, also reiterated his opposition to an international Middle East peace conference, an idea which has gained backing from the Soviet Union and many Western European countries, is not the best way to bring peace to the Middle East.

"In my opinion, it will not serve the cause of peace," he said. "We believe we can only get peace by talks between the parties. An international conference will make things worse."

Former army chief of staff 'wiretapped Begin's phone'

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli newspaper said Monday that former Chief of Staff Rafael Eytan, now a legislator, wiretapped the telephones of then-premier Menachem Begin and three army generals.

Eytan, of the ultra-right wing Tehiya Party, led the Israeli army into Lebanon in June 1982 and was chief of staff between 1978-1983.

The daily Davar newspaper, which is aligned with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party, said Gen. Eytan ordered communications officers to listen in on the conversations from the "basement of a luxury office building" during 1980-81.

Eytan, who resigned from office in 1983, was both premier

and defence minister at the time.

Geo. Eytan was not available for comment because he was "visiting friends" on the eve of the seven-day Passover holiday, said a woman who answered his home telephone and refused to elaborate.

Begin's spokesman Yehiel Kadishai did not answer his telephone. The military spokesman's office said it planned no comment on the report.

Among the generals whose phone was monitored was then-Chief of Southern Command, Dan Shomron, the army's newly appointed chief of staff, the newspaper said.

The report did not say how many conversations were tapped, for how long or what was said.

But his move seemed to be a follow up of an appeal he made last week asking the rebels for a two-week ceasefire this month to allow the start of peace talks.

"In order to continue our march on the way to a peaceful solution, we call for observing a limited ceasefire during the month of the uprising (April), to start on a date to be agreed upon," Mr. Mahdi told a mass rally Monday on the second anniversary of the coup that deposed President Jaafar Numeiri.

The government and the rebels could hold talks "inside Sudan or in a neutral country" to a more permanent truce and to prepare for a constitutional conference, Mr. Mahdi said.

He pledged to meet the rebels demands for lifting the state of emergency and abolishing the controversial Islamic Laws once an agreement on the proposed ceasefire was reached.

On April 1, diplomatic sources in the Chadian capital N'Djamena said Libya had pulled its troops back from Chad's north

Mahdi accuses Moscow of backing rebels

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has commissioned four MiG-23 jet interceptors Libya's leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi gave to Sudan last week as a gift.

Libya timed its gift to coincide with Sudanese celebrations of the second anniversary of the coup that overthrew President Jaafar Numeiri, Col. Qaddafi's former arch-enemy.

"The gift is a real expression of fraternity between Sudan and Libya. The Sudanese people appreciate the gift and consider it as a strong evidence for the common interest between the two sisterly people," Mr. Mahdi said at Wadi Sayedan Air Base, about 40 kilometers north of here.

Acting commander of the Sudanese Air Force said the planes were fully equipped and that they would "fill a vacuum" in Sudan's air defence operations, according to the official Sudan News Agency.

He said Libya had trained a number of Sudanese engineers, pilots and technicians on flying the aircraft.

The four Soviet-made planes arrived here Monday.

The authoritative Loodoo-based International Institute for Strategic Studies says Libya has 135 MiG-23s. Sudan's most advanced aircraft until now were

Local press reports said that

Sudan commissions jets given by Libya

eight MiG-21 interceptors.

Meanwhile commanders of a Libyan force which infiltrated into Sudan in February have returned home but some of the 700 to 1,000 soldiers are still on Sudanese soil, diplomatic sources said Sunday.

They said the Libyan officers of the contingent, said by Sudan to have launched attacks against Chad, returned home last week with the force's heavy equipment.

Sudanese army troops supervised the pullout, but several hundred of the soldiers were now scattered over Sudan's western province of Darfur near Chad, the sources said.

The troops were the remainder of a force which launched a cross-border raid against Chad but was driven off by the French-backed government forces of President Hissene Habre, they said.

Mr. Mahdi said last month that part of the Libyan force, equipped with rocket launchers, anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns and 40 trucks, attacked Chad from Sudan but returned later in disarray.

He said later the troops had started to withdraw at his request and declared last Monday that "the cloud in relations with Libya has cleared," a reference to the tension between the two countries over Darfur tribesmen.

He said his ministry planned to order armed tribesmen to hand over their weapons to local authorities. Police would use force to disarm violators, he added.

Libya says Aozou not for bargaining

LONDON (R) — Libya has said that the Aozou Strip whose sovereignty it disputes with Chad was an inalienable part of Libyan Arab land which was not open to negotiation.

The People's Committee for

Foreign Liaison (Foreign Ministry) said in Tripoli the strip "... has not been, is not now and will not be in the future an object of bargaining, international arbitration or concession."

The statement added: "The successive French declarations are in fact a screen by which the French government is trying to lengthen the duration of the conflict in Chad in order to justify its effective occupation of this country and its continuing colonialist presence there."

On April 1, diplomatic sources in the Chadian capital N'Djamena said Mr. Habre's crack troops had been trained in Zaire and a total of 26 Zairean soldiers had died in Chadian soil in the past few years.

Turkey to apply for EC membership today

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will apply Tuesday for membership of the 12-nation European Community (EC), Foreign Ministry officials said.

A formal announcement was expected from Prime Minister Turgut Ozal after a meeting with President Kenan Evren.

The officials told Reuters Minister of State Ali Bozer, in charge of relations with the EC, would hand the application to Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans in Brussels Tuesday.

Mr. Tindemans is current president of the Community's decision-taking Council of Ministers and diplomats said they believed Turkey wanted the application to be discussed at the council's next meeting on April 27.

Turkey earlier Monday announced its wish to join the Western European Union (WEU), the seven-nation de-

fense-oriented group which had been largely dormant until Britain began to revive it last year.

Diplomats said they believed the WEU application was timed before that for the EC to stress Turkey's commitment to European integration.

Mr. Ozal has made EC membership one of his aims since he took office in 1983 at the head of a market-oriented, conservative government. He has always said he accepts membership will take a long time to achieve but wants an early commitment on it.

Diplomats said the major initial obstacle Mr. Ozal might have to overcome would be concern by EC member Greece at the prospect of Turkey, with which it has many disputes, joining the Community.

The two countries came close to an armed clash over oil rights in the Aegean Sea two weeks ago

but the diplomats said the atmosphere had calmed considerably as they sought a settlement to that dispute.

Turkey would be the first member of the Community not fully in Europe — most of the country is in Asia — and the first not predominantly Christian as most Turks are Muslims.

But it is already a member of the Atlantic alliance and statements by officials make clear Ankara regards it as an ally and as a member of the West, but at the same time sees immense difficulties in baving it as a member, diplomats said.

The Community now faces the dilemma of assuring Ankara it values it as an ally and as a member of the West, but at the same time sees immense difficulties in baving it as a member, diplomats said.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel: (06) 532005, where it should always be verified.

Omani trade minister leaves after signing minutes of joint talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Omani Minister of Industry and Trade Colonel Salem Al Ghazali left Amman on Monday at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan during which he signed minutes of the first meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Omani Economic Committee.

During his visit Col. Ghazali also met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali and held talks with Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher on further promoting and bolstering bilateral trade and economic relations.

In a departure statement the Omani minister said that during the meeting of the joint economic committee, the two sides reviewed the progress made by the two countries in economic fields since the first meeting of the joint committee held in Muscat, Oman, last year.

The two sides also agreed on a number of measures to speed up the implementation of a trade agreement signed between the two countries and means of further promoting the exchange of goods between them. He added that his discussions with Jordanian officials focused on means of bolstering bilateral relations and in the cultural and tourism fields.

The two sides also discussed training Omani staff at the Jordanian hotel training college and sending a Jordanian expert in tourist fields to Oman to help establish a hotel training school in Oman. Col. Ghazali continued.

The minutes of the first Joint Jordanian-Omani committee meeting were signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Monday. The minutes provided for enhancing economic and bilateral relations between the two countries and reviewing means of developing these relations. The minutes also called for providing the necessary facilities for increasing the volume of Jordanian agricultural exports to Oman and for assisting the Omani side in marketing Omani agricultural produce in neighbouring Arab countries.

According to the minutes, both sides agree to hold national industrial exhibitions in the capitals of both countries. In this regard, it was agreed that a Jordanian industrial exhibition be held in Oman next year.

Fayez briefs S. Korean team on Mideast issues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez Monday underlined Jordan's demand for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

Mr. Fayez was speaking during a meeting with a delegation from the South Korean parliament who arrived in Amman Sunday on a five-day visit to Jordan.

Mr. Fayez said that His Majesty King Hussein continues to exert all possible efforts for convening an international peace conference as the best forum for solving the problems of the Middle East peace and end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Referring to the situation in the occupied territories, Mr. Fayez said that the Israeli authorities continue to exercise repressive measures against the Arab population, and he called on the South Korean delegation to rally support for the just Arab causes at the 77th meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting, due to be open in Nicaragua on April 26. He said the Palestine problem and the international conference are among the main topics on the meeting's agenda.

The delegation's leader Mr. Jung-Chul Kwak spoke at the meeting praising the strong relations between Jordan and his country and the development of these ties over the past years. King Hussein's visit to South Korea in 1983 greatly helped to promote bilateral relations and the South Korean people hold deep appreciation and respect for the King and the Jordanian people and support efforts for a lasting peace in the Middle East, said Mr. Kwak, who is a member of the Democratic Justice Party in the 276-seat South Korean parliament.

The other members of the visiting delegation are Hong-Rae Cho from the New Korea Democratic Party, Joong-Dong Kwon from the Democratic Justice Party, Mr. Yong-An Choi from the Korean National Party who is accompanied by his wife and Saeng-Bong Han from the People's Democratic Party.



Her Majesty Queen Noor gets herself inoculated against neo-natal tetanus at Jabel Al Manara community health centre Monday (Petra photo)

Queen launches national campaign to combat neo-natal tetanus, measles

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Monday gave a befitting hand to Jordan's national immunization campaign by getting herself inoculated against neo-natal tetanus, signalling the start of an intensive media drive to combat child-killer diseases.

Sitting on the examination bed inside the Jabel Al Manara community health centre, Queen Noor wore a big smile as the chief nurse gave her the vaccination. Prior to receiving the vaccination, Queen Noor inaugurated the JD 80,000 centre which offers primary health care and diagnosis to 100,000 residents of the area. A crowd of people lined the premises to warmly welcome the Queen to their health centre.

Yesterday's ceremony was a further boost to Jordan's national immunization campaign which was launched in 1979 under Queen Noor's patronage to fight the main six child-killer diseases; polio, tuberculosis, pertussis, tetanus, measles and diphtheria. These fatal diseases are reported to claim the lives of 600 children a day in Arab countries and 8,000 all over the world.

When Jordan first implemented its national immunization campaign eight years ago, immunization coverage against these six fatal diseases touched only 20 per cent of the total number of children in the Kingdom. The national programme

functions through 240 government-run health centres and 21 mobile medical teams and aims at achieving the goal of universal immunization by the year 1990.

A study conducted in 1986 to assess the scheme indicated that while 88 per cent of Jordanian children below one year of age had received the three-dose vaccination against polio and DPT (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus), immunization against measles among children and neo-natal tetanus among pregnant women remained at the low per centages of 64 per cent and 27 per cent respectively.

According to a Health Ministry official, Jordan has the challenge of fighting two of the most fatal child diseases, measles and neo-natal tetanus, which claim the lives of four to five children in the country each day. "Our standings" vis-a-vis measles and neo-natal tetanus, remain "unsatisfactory," therefore, a heavy media campaign had to be implemented to give more impetus to the national immunization campaign, to start as of today, said Dr. Sulaiman Q'tibain, director of primary health care at the Health Ministry.

Although the immunization rates achieved in Jordan for these two child-killer diseases "are better" compared to other developing countries, these figures "do not satisfy our aspirations," Dr. Q'tibain continued. He said the ministry's target

was to cover 90 per cent of children and women between the age of 15-45 by the year 1990. Halimeh Hussein Ali, 38, was the first woman to be inoculated against neo-natal tetanus in the presence of Her Majesty who later signed her immunization card.

Mouaz Amin, 9 months old, and Fatimah Hassan Mohammad, 8 months, were the two other children inoculated against measles at the Manara centre. Queen Noor later toured the various parts of the centre which was built by the Urban Development Department and handed over to the Ministry of Health last year.

The centre's director, Dr. Mohammad Al Khasawneh, said that between 30 to 50 children below one year of age were getting immunized against measles and between 40 to 60 women were being inoculated against neo-natal tetanus at the centre every day.

The 500-square metre building houses ten rooms and is manned by two general doctors, one dentist, five registered nurses, four auxiliary nurses and two assistant pharmacists.

Yesterday's ceremony was within Jordan's celebrations of World Health Day which is being held under the World Health Organisation's (WHO) motto: "Immunization, a chance for every child."

Well-known screenplay writers discuss their work in America's film industry

By Nermene Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Whoever said it was difficult for two writers to work together obviously hadn't heard of these two. Defying set patterns, they collaborated and became America's best known pair of writers — they have also been married for 23 years. Joan Didion and John Dunne, who are currently on their first visit to Jordan, said that they started their career as script writers out of economic necessity.

Discussing their work and the film industry in the United States on Monday, they chronicled the development of their career from being New York reporters to two of the most dynamic contemporary literary personalities. According to Mr. Dunne, he and his wife have always needed "blocks of time" to continue working on novels while being able to survive matches. Mr. Kwak continued.

The offer, which was put forward in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee, was turned down by North Korea, the only country to boycott the games, he said, adding that all Communist countries have announced their readiness to attend the Seoul Olympiad.

Jordan has tentative plans to take part in the games but Minister of Youth 'Eid Dahiya said Monday it was premature to decide on the clubs and individuals who would represent the Kingdom at the games.

Visit to Baqaa camp

Later Monday, the Korean delegation visited Baqaa camp for Palestine refugees where they were briefed by the Baqaa area officer and camp services officer on the establishment of the camp and the services rendered to its population by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). The delegation members then toured one of the elementary schools in the camp and the head of the delegation donated \$100 to the school.

True Confessions," their latest film, was no where near the runaway success of A Star is Born, but nonetheless guaranteed them \$150,000 plus a production bonus of \$100,000. "Timing is everything for the success of a book or a movie," said Ms. Didion.

Mr. Dunne cited the award winning box office success "Platoon" to further illustrate this idea. "Platoon won all the academy awards because it represented a revisionist view of Viet-

nam." He said that all earlier films about the Vietnam war had nationalistic overtones.

Mr. Dunne does not believe that movies and their writers influence people. Contrary to popular belief, people transfer their moods to writers; the success of a movie is greatly dependent on the people's mood at the time of the film's release, he said.

Although people went through a period of identifying with movies such as "Extra Terrestrial (E.T.)" and "Jaws" during the 60s, 70s and early 80s, Mr. Dunne explained that the American film industry is moving towards an era which identifies more and more with real people.

If you look at all the movies which won awards this year you would notice that all of them are about real people in real life."

The supernatural hero, a curious phenomenon in American movies, does not interest Ms. Didion and Mr. Dunne. According to Mr. Dunne, "the impulse to write such movies is a personal thing, usually, by writers who feel that way."

Discussing the work of Ms. Didion and Mr. Dunne, novelist Leslie Caron wrote: "This resi-

PLO begins reconciliation talks

(Continued from page 1)

state. The Jordan Times has learned that Fateh is currently trying to work out a draft resolution which defines future relations with Jordan. Three drafts have been drawn up to be presented during the dialogue which would resume on Tuesday.

Judging by the course of the opening session, however, it seemed that the PFLP had retracted from its previous demand to declare null and void the 17th session of the PNC, held in Amman in 1984. During the opening session Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeb, who was elected PNC chairman in Amman, addressed the leaders: "I urge you in the name of Palestinian legitimacy to unite..." There was no sign of resentment or opposition by any faction to Sheikh Saeb's speech.

In another development, the

Dahiya urges the public to contribute towards improving youth facilities and sports

Minister says plans to establish new recreation, cultural centres curtailed by lack of funds

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Youth has plans to upgrade the sports and youth movement by establishing new sports and cultural facilities throughout the Kingdom with an emphasis on higher training standards and improving sports administration, Minister of Youth 'Eid Dahiya said Monday.

The minister, however, conceded that the funds earmarked by the treasury will fall short of the required allocations and he urged the public to contribute towards implementing the projects envisaged in the scheme.

under construction and that five camps for voluntary work — two winter camps, one in Aqaba and the second in the Jordan Valley — would be added to the existing summer camp in Ajloun.

The minister, in cooperation with the Jordanian universities, is planning training courses in which approximately 700 young people will be enrolled every year. The cost of the training said.

More than 2000 applications within the age group 7-19 years have been received by a special body set up to coordinate voluntary work and community activities.

In reply to a question, the minister said it was a healthy sign that youth were politically minded as he said that the current situation with Israel occupying part of the country means that the youth interact with prevalent political situation and are part of any political developments.

He said that sports centres and clubs on the West Bank are run under the umbrella of the Youth Ministry and added that his ministry's programmes are directed at people in both banks.

"But the Israeli occupation stands as stumbling block in our efforts to extend support and to supervise facilities in the occupied territories," he said.

However, he pointed out that Jordan frequently receives sports teams from the West Bank for games and matches and within the overall aim of upgrading sports standards in the Kingdom.

French official looks into development plans for occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Duhin Monday met with

Mr. Jean-Jacques Subrenat, the deputy director of the technical cooperation department at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They reviewed efforts being made by the Jordanian government to support the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories through an economic and social development programme, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Regarding the new sports facilities, the ministry has just commenced work at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid and a similar complex will be constructed in the southern part of Amman, the minister told the circle which is organised weekly by Director of the Department of Press and Publications, Dr. Musa Kralani.

Mr. Dahiya added that ten sports complexes in various parts of the Kingdom are currently

towards the economic and social development of the occupied territories. It was announced Sunday that the French government had decided to raise its contribution towards the economic and social development of the occupied Arab territories from four million francs to 10 million francs annually and not to 14 million as was erroneously reported in yesterday's Jordan Times.

Mr. Subrenat is due to visit the occupied West Bank tomorrow where he will conduct a first hand study on the sectors and projects which the French government plans to support.

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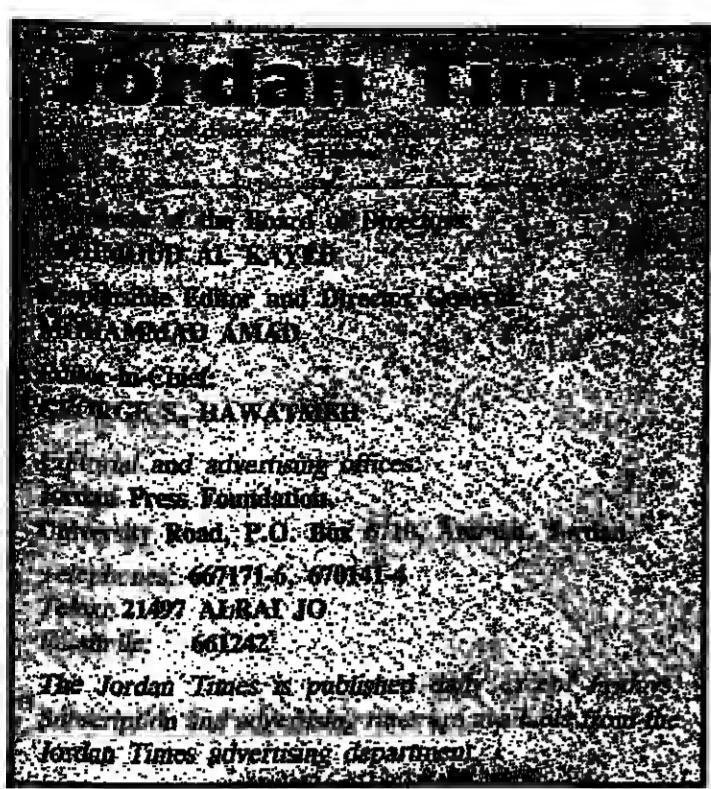
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DICO JORDAN



Israel comes first to American Jews

By Claudia Wright

WASHINGTON — The idea that on issues affecting Israel the American Jewish community is American first, Zionist second, has always been a touchy point. Many observers of American Jewish politics believe it. American Jews passionately deny it, and accuse those who believe it of anti-Semitism.

However, the involvement of Israel in manipulating the president in the Iran arms scandal, and the revelations of the Pollard espionage affair have raised this question as never before. For the first time, officials of the U.S. government and Congress dare to say aloud what many have believed all along — that American Jews in official positions will betray the United States if Israel asks (or prays) them to. The evidence disclosed during the Pollard investigation — by both the prosecutors and defense attorneys — has suggested that Israel continues to run high-level spies inside the U.S. government; that one of those agents may have tipped the Israeli embassy off when investigators were closing in on Pollard, enabling Israelis involved in the case to flee before they could be arrested; and that U.S. government files document

more than 40 cases of Israeli spies in the U.S. who were caught, but never prosecuted. So commonplace is Israeli spying in the U.S. that Pollard and his lawyers argued that his prosecution was "discrimination" — he was being "sent to Auschwitz," Pollard himself suggested.

This is deeply embarrassing and threatening for American Jews. They have urged that Israel take the blame and make a show at least of punishing those who recruited and directed Pollard. When the Israelis have retaliated by accusing the American Jews of trying to curry favour with non-Jewish Americans, there have been bitter arguments over the loyalty issue in the American and Israeli press.

It is ironic, therefore, that the best evidence of the loyalties of American Jews comes long before the arms dealing and espionage scandals became news — from regular opinion surveys conducted and published by a leading Jewish organization. These show that American Jews identify Israel so closely with their personal and religious identity that they put their loyalty to Israel ahead of their allegiance to the U.S.

The most extensive survey of the attitudes of American Jews was conducted in 1983 by Steven Cohen, an academic at Brandeis University. The survey was sponsored and financed by the American Jewish Committee, based in New York. According to the results that were later published, Cohen found that at least a third of American Jews have family living in Israel, and more than two-thirds say they have personal friends living there. Most have visited Israel at least once; one in six says he has seriously considered emigrating to Israel. Most contribute directly to Israeli charities, and a large proportion say they contribute to American political candidates because "he/she would support Israel."

There is almost unanimous agreement among U.S. Jews that "U.S. support for Israel is in America's interest." In his plea before sentencing by the U.S. court, Pollard said the same thing. "In my mind, assisting the Israelis did not involve or require betraying the United States." But this is pure rhetoric — neither Pollard nor most American Jews actually believe it. The key to the private preferences of American Jews is revealed in the way they

say they vote in U.S. elections. Seventy per cent told Cohen that "Jews should not vote for candidates who are unfriendly to Israel." When Cohen explored what was meant by "unfriendly" toward Israel, most Jews responded by expressing opposition to anyone who is critical of Israel. The evidence is clear that American Jews are staunchly opposed to non-Jewish Americans who criticize Israel in any way, and at election time Jews vote first for Israel and only after that for other reasons.

The degree of animosity among American Jews toward non-Jews is even greater among Jewish leaders than among the Jewish community at large. American blacks are judged to be hostile by more than half of the Jewish leaders surveyed; the U.S. Department of State comes next on the enemies list, followed by business corporations, the news media, and Roman Catholics.

What is extraordinary about these attitudes is that there is nothing to indicate that these groups threaten Israel's security. On the contrary, the State Department and the U.S. press have been Israel's strongest allies. In the Pollard case, the State De-

partment tried to pressure the prosecution to drop its investigations, while the U.S. press has provided the Israelis with a platform to lie about the case. If this is not enough for American Jews, do they demand that Israeli agents control the State Department and the U.S. press directly? Do American Jews trust the U.S. government only when it is penetrated by Israeli agents like Pollard?

The survey results suggest this is so. They demonstrate a high-degree of social, political, religious and racial intolerance in the American Jewish community.

This is a type of xenophobia, of hatred toward foreigners. But the "foreigners" in this case happen to be fellow Americans who are not Jewish.

Difficult though it may be for outsiders and non-Jewish Americans to understand these Jewish sentiments, the survey provide a convincing explanation for them. American Jews know that non-Jews suspect Jewish allegiance to Israel comes before loyalty to the U.S., because this is exactly how most American Jews feel. There is no problem of dual or divided loyalties for American Jews — Israel comes first. But this pro-

duces a sense of guilt and fear of being exposed. As a result, American Jews express their antagonism toward non-Jews, whom they accuse of anti-Semitism. In his statement to the court, Pollard attacked "the bigots (who) emerge from their closets wrapped in the respectability of the flag." Anyone, the convicted spy said, "who made the accusation that Jews in general are a people who are not entirely reliable due to their emotional attachment to Israel" is making an "unwarranted indictment of an entire race."

But this is not traditional anti-Semitism which Pollard and the American Jewish community are afraid of. It is retaliation by non-Jewish Americans for a Jewish allegiance to Israel that brooks no criticism, no publicity, no debate, not even any limits in U.S. law. The evidence for that allegiance is not to be found in the wild imaginings of anti-Semites nor in the dossier of Pollard the spy. It is to be found in the opinions of American Jews, as recorded and published by one of the oldest and most respected of American Jewish organizations, the American Jewish Committee — Arab News, Jeddah.

Community of interest

THREE days before going off to hear Mr. Gorbachev in his den Mrs. Thatcher had talks in London of considerable importance with another world leader, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Because of the limited glassnost which surrounds such discussions in England — or, to use a more familiar native word, in the absence of leaking leaks — we do not know exactly what was said on either side. We are told that the two discussed the "destabilizing effect" of the Iran-Iraq war on all countries in the Gulf, as well as the perennial, and linked, problems of the Palestinians and Lebanon. It would not be surprising if some or all of these subjects have cropped up in the Thatcher-Gorbachev meetings, for if these two are as concerned as they say they are, and as we must believe them to be, about providing for a more stable world, they are subjects that can hardly be ignored.

Regimes and politicians change, but geography does not. English allies show Britain firmly in the centre of the picture; to the west the Atlantic, to the east the vast Eurasian land-mass, most of it occupied by Russia and its satellites. Russian allies emphasize the enormous length of the country's land frontiers, 10,000 miles from Kaliningrad on the Baltic to Vladivostok on the Sea of Japan. Since 1945 the preoccupation of Russia's rulers has been to safeguard these frontiers, and in many respects they have been outstandingly successful. In spite of damaging setbacks Eastern Europe has remained broadly speaking loyal for 40 years. There is less talk of liberating it than there was in the Dullies days.

But looking southwards the record is much more patchy. In 1945 Russia demanded the return of the Turkish provinces of Kars and Ardahan and to be given bases in the Bosphorus. There was also a claim for trusteeship over Libya. The provinces were not returned; there was no trusteeship, and all Russia got in the Straits was a revision of the 1936 Montreux Convention. In Iran, Russian policy immediately following the war was even more hamfisted. The puppet regime set up in the Iranian province of Azerbaijan resulted in an appeal to the Security Council by Iran and Stalin was obliged to back down. The invasion of Afghanistan was another act of force which is now almost openly admitted to have misfired. But Russians have long memories. From the time of Catherine the Great they have been looking for access to the warm waters of the Mediterranean and the Gulf, but in both these seas today it is the American fleet which is present and preparing for action.

There should be a community of interest between Russia and the West to ensure that the Gulf remains open to navigation. The possibility that the Iranian government will try to close the Straits of Hormuz to shipping cannot be ruled out, difficult though the operation would be. But if the Chinese missiles installed on Iran's coastline were used to interfere with shipping there can be little doubt that they would be physically taken out by the Americans. If that happened the Russians ought to be as grateful as anyone.

The year 1986, 30 years after Suez, saw a lot of mauling over the lessons of that catastrophe. After nationalisation of the Canal Company, Eden spoke of "the thumb on our windpipe," or, as he put it in his memoirs, "the continuing supply of fuel was now subject to Colonel Nasser's whim". But if in 1987 Khomenei put his hand on another windpipe the situation would be very unlike that in 1956. Then there were not many users of the Canal, not even countries like India with a considerable interest in it, which shared the fears of Britain and France. Arab governments rallied almost unanimously behind Nasser. Today Arab governments are as vitally concerned in freedom of navigation in the Gulf as the West or Russia; indeed, a country like Saudi Arabia even more so.

It seems illogical that, with Thatcher and now Mr. Shultz in Moscow and with renewed hints of a Reagan/Gorbachev summit later in the year, there should still be those who object to the idea of Russian participation in a conference on the Middle East. The main objective, of course, is Israel, which has been playing an extremely equivocal game over Iran, as it did over Suez. The waters are once again extremely troubled, but Israel should not be allowed to fish in them — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: 'Children of a lesser God'

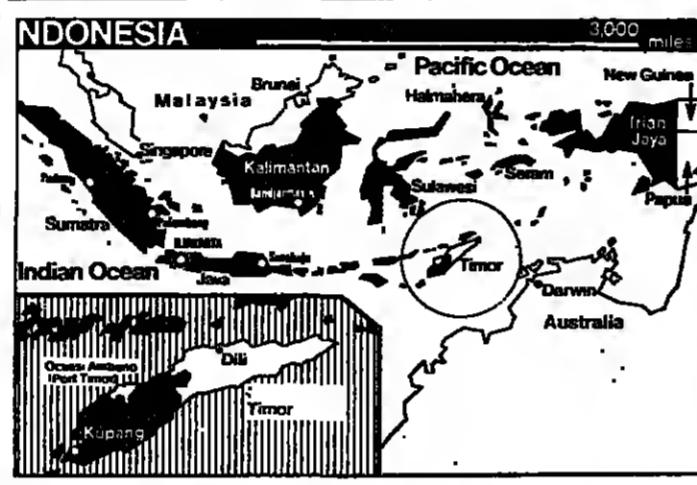
PRINCE Hassan's address to the Arab Council for Childhood and Development contained facts and figures about the children's status in the Arab World that raised the alarm about measures that should be done to deal with the situation before it is too late. Prince Hassan expressed concern about the fate of the coming generation if the present diseases and the present dangers continue to threaten the Arab children. This address reflected Prince Hassan's pain and that of all the parents in the Arab World as to what is happening to the Arab children now and their fate in the future. The Arab World's children are estimated at 85 million and the Arab World loses one million every year through preventable diseases and causes that can be avoided. Prince Hassan was careful to mention two negative influences on the children's life: Foreign servants who care for Arab children and the foreign television programmes which he said tend to harm the development of the Arab children.

Al Dustour: Zionist aggression

THE barbaric attack by Zionist settlers on the town of Qalqilya on the occupied Arab West Bank represented one more image of racial practices against the Arab population. What happened was a treacherous attack on the civilian population of the Arab town, and the Israeli government cannot be vindicated from the crime committed by Zionist elements. They pillaged the towns and destroyed the farms and the property while the Israeli authorities watched and did nothing to prevent the crime from being committed. The attack on Qalqilya was one more link in a long chain of Zionist atrocities against the Arab people with clear backing from the Israeli government. What happened in Qalqilya could happen again in other parts of the Israeli-held Arab territory as the Arab people continue to escalate their resistance activity against the Israeli occupation authorities.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israeli barbarism continues

ARAB towns and villages in occupied Palestine, the Golan Heights and South Lebanon are nowadays witnessing an escalation of resistance activity by the Arab population against the Israeli occupation and the repressive measures of Israeli authorities. The Israeli troops continue their barbaric actions against the Arab population in a bid to stem their resistance and continue their attacks on Arab property and Arab land and defend Zionist settlers actions against the Arab people. The town of Qalqilya on Sunday was the scene of such Israeli atrocities that resemble the Nazi crimes in occupied Europe during the World War II. What happened in Qalqilya was not a novelty, and will continue as the struggle continues against the Israeli invaders for the liberation of Arab territory.



Indonesian election dominated by calls for greater freedom

By Jeremy Clift

Reuter

JAKARTA — Calls for greater political freedom and attacks on business monopolies have become surprise issues in the run-up to Indonesia's elections, with campaigning entering its final week.

While the outcome of the April 23 parliamentary elections is not in doubt — President Suharto's ruling Golkar Party expects to win at least 70 per cent of the vote — the campaign has allowed critics to raise topics usually considered taboo in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

The respected independent daily Kompas found in a series of opinion surveys that even among Golkar supporters the greatest concerns of voters in Jakarta were social justice and freedom of expression.

Many critics feel that Suharto, who has ruled Indonesia for 21 years, has brought political stability and economic development at the expense of democracy. They complain also of a big gap between rich and poor.

There are only three legal political parties, and campaigning on religious or sectarian issues has been outlawed. The press is carefully controlled and campaign speeches on national television and radio are vetted in advance.

Most political analysts expect Golkar to win at least 70 per cent of the vote, against 64 per cent in the last elections, in 1982.

The election is for 400 seats in the 500 member state legislature. The other 100 seats are reserved for military appointees.

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Questions and answers — a primer on AIDS

By Robert Kearns
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, better known as AIDS, is a deadly disease that is now considered a worldwide epidemic.

Here are some questions often asked about AIDS and brief answers based on information from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and American universities.

What is AIDS?

AIDS, first detected in the United States in 1981, is a condition in which a virus attacks the immune cells that help fight off infection, leaving victims vulnerable to serious illnesses that would not affect them if the immune system were functioning normally. About 80 per cent of victims succumb to one or both of two rare diseases: Pneumocystis carii pneumonia, a parasitic lung infection and kaposi's sarcoma, a cancer that attacks the skin or mouth. Victims may also suffer chronic fevers, severe diarrhoea, a variety of cancers, nerve disorders, inflammation of the brain and decreased mental powers.

Is there a cure?

No. The disease is nearly always fatal since patients develop multiple infections that cannot effectively be treated. Their weakened immune system makes

them unable to resist new infections or respond to therapy.

What causes AIDS?

It has been traced to a class of virus known as retroviruses, which have the unique characteristic that they may not cause any ill effects for years. The AIDS retrovirus was first described by the Pasteur Institute in Paris in May, 1983, and by scientists at the NIH in Washington early in 1984. Known as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), it is far more complex than such other viruses as hepatitis, polio or measles, which makes finding a cure that much more difficult. In addition, researchers have recently identified two puzzling new strains in AIDS patients in West Africa.

How long does it take to develop?

Experts say that, within five years of infection, between 10 and 30 per cent of those infected will develop AIDS and another 20 to 50 per cent will have AIDS-related illnesses. Viewed the other way, at least 20 per cent and as many as 70 per cent will still be free of AIDS or related illnesses after five years.

But beyond that period, no one yet knows.

How is the virus transmitted?

Doctors say AIDS is not easily

contagious as, say, measles is. AIDS is spread only by the most intimate contact, usually involving the transfer of semen or blood from one person to another. The major methods are: Sexual intercourse, either vaginal or anal; transfusions of contaminated blood or blood products sharing contaminated hypodermic needles by drug users and from mother to child during pregnancy and possibly breast feeding. There is no evidence that AIDS is transmitted by casual contact, by insects or by food or water.

Some 65 to 75 per cent of AIDS cases in the United States and Europe have occurred in homosexual or bisexual men, but there is increasing evidence of heterosexual transmission.

How can AIDS be avoided?

The best advice from the experts is to minimise the risk by abstaining from sex with people who are at high risk and to use condoms unless sex partners are known to be free of infection. It can be impossible to know if a sex partner is uninfected since a person can be carrying the AIDS virus without showing symptoms.

Anal intercourse is especially discouraged as it leads to tears in the lining of the rectum that heighten the risk of infection.

Nearly 25 per cent of AIDS



Scanning electron microscope image of HIV virus that causes AIDS.

cases in the United States and a growing percentage in Europe have been linked to intravenous drug users sharing needles or syringes in which tiny amounts of contaminated blood are transferred. Those people then spread the virus through sex.

Who has AIDS?

AIDS takes its toll on the relatively young, hitting those between 20 and 40 the hardest. In the United States, AIDS has caused almost as many deaths

among men age 25 to 44 as all non-AIDS-related forms of cancer combined.

About 100,000 cases have been reported worldwide. But these are just the tip of the iceberg. The World Health Organisation estimates that as of 1986, five to 10 million people were carrying virus and that this could produce between 500,000 and three million new cases of AIDS by 1991, along with 1.5 million suffering AIDS-related illness.

In 1991, U.S. experts predict

over 54,000 deaths from AIDS, bringing the cumulative projected total to 179,000. In Europe, experts project 25,000-30,000 AIDS cases by the end of 1988. In Africa AIDS cases are up sharply. Some 14 per cent of pregnant women studied in Kampala, Uganda, are infected.

How long will it take to develop a vaccine?

An effective vaccine is years away, possibly in the next century. Even then, it is likely to be expensive and scarce. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration expects several vaccines will be tested on humans by the end of the year. One is already being tested on humans by French researchers. But it will be years before testing on sizeable groups can be performed.

There are two main reasons why developing an AIDS vaccine is proving so difficult. First, although some people naturally produce antibodies or specialised proteins that recognise and attack a disease-causing organism if it enters the body, these antibodies do not yet destroy the AIDS virus. Second, the genetic structure of the virus varies from one strain to another and new strains keep developing. So, a vaccine developed from one strain may not protect against others.



Boy George

Boy George bounces back from drug addiction

By Ben Dobbins
The Associated Press

responsive."

His moves are again being followed in the media, not always in a positive light.

After leading a chorus of 120 pop artists in a re-recording of the Beatles' hit "Let It Be" recently, Boy George walked out of a studio and into a left hook.

A passer-by hit the singer in the nose and questioned his masculinity. The 6-foot-1 Boy George, who admits he's bisexual, walked away.

"No way was I going to start brawling in the street," he told a reporter.

Boy George briefly topped the British singles chart in March with his first solo recording, a re-make of Jamaican James Bonhag's 1974 hit "Everything I won."

"Let It Be" shot to the top of the charts in April. Proceeds from record sales will go to relatives of the estimated 134 people killed when a British ferry capsized off the Belgian coast March 6.

Boy George's last British No. 1 was "Karma Chameleon," which hit the top in September 1983, when his band, Culture Club, was at its peak and selling millions of records worldwide.

The group, distinguished by Boy George's soulful voice and drag ensemble, has all but officially broken up.

The demise of the group seems to date from late 1984, when "The Medal Song" reached only no. 32 in Britain.

Boy George is working on a new album, tentatively titled "Soul," for release later this year. Music industry experts say the first real test of the singer's current popularity.

"The acid test will come when he does not depend on re-recordings of old songs," said Danny Kelly, deputy editor of New Musical Express. "He's doing himself some favours by ditching the culture club mob."

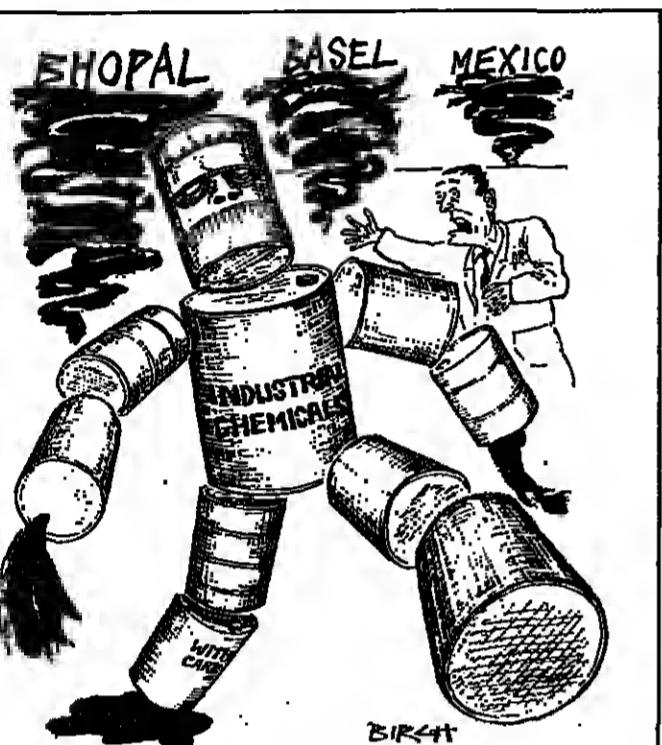
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Boy George admitted he was dabbling in drugs in the summer of 1985. A year ago, he was rumoured to be spending £800 (\$1,200) a week on his habit.

He began treatment for heroin addiction in June 1986, following his conviction on heroin possession charges for which he was fined £250 (\$370).

In August the first of his two friends died from drug overdose. New York songwriter Michael Rudetsky, 27, was found dead from a heroin overdose in the singer's £1 million (\$1.5 million) London mansion.

Rudetsky's parents lodged a \$44 million suit in New York, charging that Boy George left their son unattended in a drug stupor.



STOP! I HAVEN'T TESTED YOU YET!"

80,000 chemicals untested

A meeting of the chemicals group of the 24-member "rich countries club" — the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), heard that 80,000 chemicals in daily use and production in factories around the world are still untested for toxicity and carcinogenicity. New chemicals which have been brought into use since 1977 have been tested under OECD guidelines established that year. The 80,000 represent chemicals which were in use in 1977, are still in use, and remain untested. According to a Danish delegate it would cost \$45-50 billion to run the standard tests on these chemicals — and that would involve the deaths of enormous numbers of animals in the infamous "LD50" (lethal dose to kill 50 per cent tests. According to a Swedish delegate present, the major chemical spill into the Rhine from a factory in Basel, Switzerland, last year proved that

incidents like Bhopal, India (where some thousands died in a leak from a Union Carbide factory) could happen in OECD countries. Hence the concern now that the 80,000 untested chemicals, most of which are concentrated in the industrialised world, be properly tested. However, many of the chemicals are used only in tiny amounts, and costs — and concern for the number of animals needed to test all 80,000 — will in practice restrict testing to the just 1,000 chemicals which account for 99.5 per cent of the physical volume of the 80,000.

During the meeting Canada offered to host a workshop to establish agreed methods for the common testing of this top 1,000.

Another facet is the extreme youthfulness of the population:

Algeria acts to curb population growth

By Claire Brisset

ALGIERS — Algeria is entering 1987 amidst growing economic difficulties caused by the fall in oil revenues and the realisation that control of population growth is vital for the country's future. The figures speak for themselves and the authorities are no longer shy of giving them maximum publicity.

Algeria's annual population growth rate is still 3.2 per cent — one of the highest in the world. If this rate were to be maintained, the country's population will double in 22 years. At independence in 1962, the population was little over 10 million. Today it is 24 million.

Rapid urbanisation is one facet of the present situation. Throughout the country, both large and small towns are increasing like mushrooms. Algiers itself, designed for a population of 600,000, now has 3 million. The housing shortage there is acute, with families crammed into tiny apartments, frequent water shortages, and the urban infrastructure generally hopelessly overloaded.

Another facet is the extreme youthfulness of the population:

registration and infant follow-up, and, of course, family planning.

This last aspect is receiving unprecedented attention from the Algerian health authorities. All health units throughout the country, both curative and preventive, as well as all maternal and child health centres (PMI) will from now on include family planning services.

The most popular contraceptive method by far is the pill, with 85 per cent of all family planning acceptors using it. Most of the rest use the IUD, which has not been very popular up to now. For several years now, all Algerian midwives have received training in family planning methods.

An intense publicity campaign has reached most villages as well as the large towns. Even the Islamic Council has given public support, confirming that birth spacing conforms to the teachings of Islam.

But there is still a long way to go. Only 25 per cent of Algerian women of childbearing age use a contraceptive method, despite official encouragement, free services and the support of the imams. Psychological and social resistance remains strong. "Algeria

culture remains basically strongly pro-natalist," a gynaecologist and obstetrician at the Mustapha Hospital, Algiers, the largest in the country, said. "Attitudes will take some time yet to change."

One important development which will have an effect in the long term is the increasing number of girls being educated. At present, around 60 per cent of women of childbearing age are illiterate, but the proportion is falling rapidly as the effects of the government's efforts to improve female access to education are felt. The age at which women marry, currently 21 on average, is also rising and this will also have a demographic effect.

Algeria thus seems on the threshold of major social change — change which the government is anxiously awaiting, their eye fixed on the worrying trends of booming population growth, falling oil and gas revenues, and stagnating food production.

Algeria today imports as much as 60 per cent of her food requirements. Self-sufficiency is only a dream as long as population growth remains out of control — People Features.

Anyone can be a star on Broadway for \$9.95

By Steve James

Reuter

NEW YORK — For anyone whose dreams of singing on Broadway are just that, Rick Goldberg has the answer — their own recording for \$9.95.

"I am probably a perfect customer — a frustrated singer who thinks he's good, but deep down realises he's not good enough," Goldberg said.

Goldberg's Centre Stage allows people who usually sing only in the bath or shower, but who think they are budding Frank Sinatras or Bruce Springsteens to take the performance from the bath to the studio.

Centre Stage, however, is more

than just a sound equivalent of the photo booth found in stations and shopping malls everywhere.

It is a multi-track studio managed by a sound engineer who can record anyone, mixing in instruments and vocals to more than 180 songs from the latest pop hits to rock classics, show tunes, children's songs or Spanish songs.

After the 10-minute session, the customer has a cassette recording of his own for \$9.95 or \$39.95 for an album.

At a recent session at the Centre Stage studio in the Macy's department store in New York's Broadway, engineer David Frazier made recordings of Alabama high school students singing top

10 hits, a professional singer making demo discs of "Somewhere" from West Side Story and a Sinatra sound-alike reporter singing "New York, New York."

"Some people use it for practice. Some people change the words, some make anniversary or valentines tapes," said Frazier, who is also a keyboard player with a Gospel Group.

"I've had kids come in and do 'Old McDonald had a Farm' with a full orchestra backing," said Goldberg.

"Some use the service to do customised greetings cards. My wife and I sent out party invitations by changing the words to 'New York, New York.'

"You should never underestimate how well people think they can sing," Goldberg told the Sinatra sound-alike reporter.

A 29-year-old businessman in the real estate and securities field, Goldberg started Centre Stage last year in a shopping mall in Houston.

Now there are Centre Stage studios in a half-dozen U.S. cities and plans for several more, including one in London.

With each location doing \$200,000-\$300,000 in sales a year, the business is turning over \$2 million annually — Goldberg hopes to go public later this year.

Centre Stage has a list of over 180 songs to choose from and the singer gets one chance to rehearse the number.

"He still doesn't feel 100 per cent sure of himself," said Ms. Smith. "He has a hit of vulnerability now. ... He never listened to anybody else. Now he is more

confident."

The deaths also prompted him to speak out against drug abuse and revive his flagging career.

The singer agreed to testify against his drug suppliers and was instrumental in the March conviction of a married couple sentenced to four years in prison, and another woman given a two-year suspended sentence.

After months in seclusion, Boy George began appearing at music award dinners and on TV talk shows. His outrageous dress style seemed more muted, the wiseguy image was slightly altered.

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Napoli suffers worst defeat since 1984

LONDON (R) — The race for the Italian championship opened up dramatically after Napoli suffered their worst defeat for almost three years Sunday beaten 3-0 at Verona.

Second-placed Internazionale Milan, who beat Avellino 1-0, have reduced the gap from seven to two points in five weeks.

Close finishes also remain in prospect in Spain and France. One point separates Real Madrid and Barcelona after their goalless draw Sunday while Bordeaux are a point clear after beating chief rivals Marseille 3-0 on Saturday.

But it was Napoli's poor performance, including a penalty miss by Diego Maradona, which caused the biggest stir.

Mecir beats McEnroe in WCT final

DALLAS (R) — Miloslav Mecir kept his patience and overcame an angry John McEnroe 6-0, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 to win the \$500,000 WCT finals tennis tournament.

The Czechoslovak, who had never won a set from McEnroe, said he tried to ignore the American's outbursts. McEnroe was fined \$2,000 and was assessed two time violations and a penalty point for verbal abuse.

"It's not very nice to play in such an atmosphere," Mecir said. "I would be happy if he would have left."

"I have learned to be more patient when somebody is arguing or trying to get me out of my timing," Mecir said. "I've dreamed of winning twice, but I've been happy if he has won."

"It's a dream come true," Mecir said. "I've dreamed of winning the Masters, but I never dreamed of winning it like this — beating two of the greatest golfers in the world."

The ball disappeared into the hole like the flash of a cotton-tail rabbit ducking into its burrow.

The quiet, soft-spoken Mecir leaped high into the air, then went bopping around the green, raising both hands in elation and clasping them to his head.

"Reporters have asked me all week if I ever dreamed of winning the Masters. I did," Mecir said.

It was the climax of a multiple-man struggle in which six men either led or shared the lead at one time or another.

And it beat the two dominant figures in golf today, Norman, the flamboyant "great white shark," and Ballesteros, the Spanish master who has won the

championship twice and owns a

Mize triumphs in Masters Golf tourney

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Larry Mize, a native son of this old southern city, turned back two stars of international golf with a spectacular pitch-in birdie that won a sudden death playoff Sunday in the 51st Masters Golf tournament.

Mize won the coveted green jacket that goes to the Masters champion with a pitch from about 30-40 yards to the right of the 11th hole, the second of the sudden death playoff.

Mize played the shot to the fringe, then stood frozen in fascination as the ball took off, running straight into the cup. That eliminated Greg Norman of Australia, while Seve Ballesteros of Spain bogeyed the first sudden death hole to drop out.

"It's a dream come true," Mize said. "I've dreamed of winning the Masters, but I never dreamed of winning it like this — beating two of the greatest golfers in the world."

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4 countries still bidding to stage 1994 World Cup

ZURICH (R) — Four countries are still interested in hosting the 1994 World Cup Soccer Finals, the International Football Federation (FIFA) said Monday.

A press spokeswoman said that after studying FIFA's requirements the national associations of Brazil, Chile, Morocco and the United States had confirmed their applications by the April 10 deadline.

Algeria, Benin and South Korea had also originally applied but South Korea pulled out without explanation and the spokeswoman told Reuters: "We have not heard anything from Algeria and Benin and must assume they have withdrawn."

The final decision will be taken by FIFA's Executive Committee in Zurich on June 30 next year with Brazil widely regarded as favourites.

Mecir held his concentration through the controversy and broke McEnroe three times in each of the third and fourth sets, forcing repeated volley errors with crafty service returns. Mecir dropped only four games in the last two sets to record his fourth tournament win this year.

race was now more exciting. "Up to last Saturday it was like we had killed the championship. But now we really want to win it, then the whole of Italy will say that we have deservedly won it."

Napoli fans went on the rampage after the defeat and there were 38 arrests.

Internazionale's goal came from Sandro Altobelli who remained pessimistic about his side's title chances. "We cannot hope that Napoli will drop another two points," he said. "To fool ourselves at this point would be silly. Our interest lies in the UEFA Cup."

In Spain, the league has moved into a playoff phase with six teams in the top group, although

only Espanol, 2-1 winners over sporting, have any hope of catching Real and Barcelona.

Bayern Munich's coach Udo Lattek, who was in Madrid ahead of his side's European Cup semi-final second leg against Real, said: "That was a boring game and I fell asleep. The referee woke me up when he whistled the end of the first half. If Madrid play against us like that we shall certainly reach the final."

Bayern's 1-0 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday kept them three points clear in the West German league. But it could still prove a costly victory.

Captain Klaus Augenthaler and midfielder Hans Dorfler suffered thigh injuries. With defender Norbert Nachtwald suspended by a high court reprieve blocking their extradition to Belgium to face manslaughter charges arising out of the 1985 Heysel stadium riot in which 39 people died.

High court judge Sir Tasker Watkins said it was with deep regret that he granted writs of habeas corpus, freeing the 26 from the immediate threat of being returned to Belgium.

He ruled that extradition orders made by a London magistrate on March 3 were flawed because the correct legal procedures had not been followed.

The judge said the decision was "deeply regrettable, having regard to the horrifying circumstances from which the extradition proceedings sprung."

The ruling came at the end of an appeal by the 26 fans, all supporters of Liverpool, against being sent to Belgium to stand trial for their role in the riots at the May 29, 1985, European Champions Cup final between the English club and Juventus of Italy.

He ruled that the court was out yet

whether a counter-appeal would be made to Britain's House of Lords or whether the Belgian government would start fresh extradition proceedings by flying out British police witnesses.

The authentication had not taken place in time, he said, and there was therefore have been issued last month.

Mr. Michael Sherrard, an attorney acting on behalf of the Belgian government, said authorities in Brussels would continue to press for extradition "by the most expeditious route."

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whether a counter-appeal would be made to Britain's House of Lords or whether the Belgian government would start fresh extradition proceedings by flying out British police witnesses.

The authentication had not

taken place in time, he said, and there was therefore have been issued last month.

Mr. Michael Sherrard, an attorney acting on behalf of the Belgian government, said authorities in Brussels would continue to press for extradition "by the most expeditious route."

The ruling came at the end of an appeal by the 26 fans, all supporters of Liverpool, against being sent to Belgium to stand trial for their role in the riots at the May 29, 1985, European Champions Cup final between the English club and Juventus of Italy.

He ruled that the court was out yet

whether a counter-appeal

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

One Sterling	1.6250/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3020/25	Canadian dollar
	1.8080/87	West German marks
	2.0395/0405	Dutch guilders
	1.4965/75	Swiss francs
	37.43/46	Belgian francs
	6.0140/90	French francs
	1289/1290	Italian lira
	142.33/45	Japanese yen
	6.3075/3125	Swedish krona
	6.7850/7900	Norwegian krona
	6.8150/8200	Danish krona
One ounce of gold	436.00/436.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities were lower in late trading after what many dealers described as a dull session, with volume light and the majority of business inter-professional. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down 15.9 points at 1,920.8, having drifted down from an opening high of 1,925.2.

Shares were marked lower at the outset on worries that the recent ineffective G-5 and G-7 meetings will make for further dollar weakness and hit major exporting companies' earnings.

Anxiety over the next possible trade war with Japan and uncertainty over the date of the next U.K. general election also helped engender a lack of interest, dealers said.

Many operators were also content to keep to the sidelines because nervousness over the near term trend on Wall Street, given worries that U.S. interest rates may have to rise to defend the weak U.S. currency. They said any increase in U.S. interest rates would make a further cut in current U.K. 10 per cent base rates less likely.

"Given the forthcoming election and interest rate worries, equities will draw their direction from the U.S. market in the coming sessions... but, unless there is a dramatic sell-off in the states the market here will not fall very much further," one equity dealer speculated.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1987
GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are able to work out some cooperative arrangements with associates, so contact them today. Investigate all the phases of your current activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Finish talks and make contracts with others. Civic work can be handled today. Keep any promises you have made.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle whatever work you need to do, but later make new contacts and look into new interests.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make arrangements for pleasure in the days ahead, then get busy at your work and continue until it's done.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) It's a good day to make the improvements at home that are sorely needed. Be cheerful and enthused.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Discuss with associates what is best to do to become more successful and band together more wisely.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Add new touches to property, and other possessions so they become more valuable. Don't waste time foolishly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be charming and magnetic with everyone you see today. Make an effort to see good friends now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get together with cooperative friends and form an alliance to get a mutual project working efficiently.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You make greater progress by combining your efforts with those of others, so don't go it alone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Handle civic or credit affairs wisely now and you can make your prestige soar to new heights.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study how to improve your present set-up. Try to meet one who is famous and can be of help to you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your hunches concerning your mate are accurate now and you can have a closer relationship.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... be, or else, will get along well with just about anyone who comes in contact with him, or her, and it would be wise to slant the education along lines of work in humanitarian professions. One who can balance any standpoints wisely and finish any project tackled.

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

6 Upturn	7 Urchin	8 Printing	9 Gr. pitcher
10 "A Bed for"	11 "A Bed for"	12 "A Bed for"	13 "A Bed for"
14 "A Bed for"	15 "A Bed for"	16 "A Bed for"	17 "A Bed for"
18 "A Bed for"	19 "A Bed for"	20 "A Bed for"	21 "A Bed for"
22 "A Bed for"	23 "A Bed for"	24 "A Bed for"	25 "A Bed for"
26 "A Bed for"	27 "A Bed for"	28 "A Bed for"	29 "A Bed for"
30 "A Bed for"	31 "A Bed for"	32 "A Bed for"	33 "A Bed for"
34 "A Bed for"	35 "A Bed for"	36 "A Bed for"	37 "A Bed for"
38 "A Bed for"	39 "A Bed for"	40 "A Bed for"	41 "A Bed for"
42 "A Bed for"	43 "A Bed for"	44 "A Bed for"	45 "A Bed for"
46 "A Bed for"	47 "A Bed for"	48 "A Bed for"	49 "A Bed for"
50 "A Bed for"	51 "A Bed for"	52 "A Bed for"	53 "A Bed for"
54 "A Bed for"	55 "A Bed for"	56 "A Bed for"	57 "A Bed for"
58 "A Bed for"	59 "A Bed for"	60 "A Bed for"	61 "A Bed for"
62 "A Bed for"	63 "A Bed for"	64 "A Bed for"	65 "A Bed for"
66 "A Bed for"	67 "A Bed for"	68 "A Bed for"	69 "A Bed for"
70 "A Bed for"	71 "A Bed for"	72 "A Bed for"	73 "A Bed for"
74 "A Bed for"	75 "A Bed for"	76 "A Bed for"	77 "A Bed for"
78 "A Bed for"	79 "A Bed for"	80 "A Bed for"	81 "A Bed for"
82 "A Bed for"	83 "A Bed for"	84 "A Bed for"	85 "A Bed for"
86 "A Bed for"	87 "A Bed for"	88 "A Bed for"	89 "A Bed for"
90 "A Bed for"	91 "A Bed for"	92 "A Bed for"	93 "A Bed for"
94 "A Bed for"	95 "A Bed for"	96 "A Bed for"	97 "A Bed for"
98 "A Bed for"	99 "A Bed for"	100 "A Bed for"	101 "A Bed for"

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China, Portugal sign Macao deal

PEKING (R) — China and Portugal Monday signed an agreement to end more than four centuries of Portuguese rule over the tiny territory of Macao and return it to Chinese control in 1999.

Prime Ministers Zhao Ziyang of China and Anibal Cavaco Silva of Portugal signed the accord in the Great Hall of the People, sealing the future of Macao, a sleepy place compared with its bustling neighbour Hong Kong and best known for its casinos and annual motor race.

Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and President Li Xianian joined in toasts at a glittering champagne ceremony to celebrate the return of Macao two years after Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

In a speech after the signing, Mr. Zhao hailed the formula under which Macao, like Hong Kong, is to keep its capitalist economic system for 50 years after the handover.

"The principle of 'one country, two systems,' is an important state policy formulated by China to accomplish its great cause of

national renification," Mr. Zhao said.

China wants to win back the nationalist-ruled island of Taiwan under the same formula.

"The successful settlement of the question of Macao has proven and will continue to prove that the concept of 'one country, two systems' is realistic and therefore definitely viable," Mr. Zhao said.

He described the issue of Macao as a question of left over from history and said the Sino-Portuguese agreement laid a solid foundation for the territory's long-term stability and development.

Declaring that a cycle of Portuguese history had ended with Monday's signing, Mr. Cavaco Silva said he was very proud of the agreement and that it established new perspectives for Sino-Portuguese relations.

He said Portugal would do

everything to maintain Macao's stability and promote economic development.

Under the agreement, Macao will become a special administrative region after the handover of power on Dec. 20, 1999, retaining a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign affairs and defence.

Macao's population of 300,000 includes more than 40,000 holders of Portuguese passports.

China has said its own nationals who are in this category will be able to use their Portuguese passports after 1999 but would not be entitled to Portuguese consular protection in Macao or elsewhere in China.

At a meeting before the ceremony, Mr. Deng told the Portuguese prime minister that the agreement was an instructive example on how to resolve problems between two states by negotiation.

Mr. Deng said Monday the policies of reform and opening to the outside world would continue for at least 70 years, the New

China News Agency reported.

"Any change will only lead to opposition by the Chinese people," Mr. Deng said at the meeting with Mr. Cavaco Silva.

"Our reforms and open policy will remain unchanged for at least 70 years, and the more developed China becomes the more impossible it will be to sever international ties," the agency quoted Mr. Deng as saying.

Western diplomats in Peking have said China's international trade has been disrupted this year because of fears among foreign businessmen that Mr. Deng's reforms are threatened by a re-emergence of traditional Communist ideas.

The news agency quoted Mr. Deng as telling Mr. Cavaco Silva that it was impossible for China to change its policies when it needed the international market.

"The settlement of the Macao question has provided experience for settling international disputes and eliminating the world's hot spots," the agency quoted Mr. Deng as saying.

Nakasone's party suffers setback in local elections

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone suffered a setback in Japan's weekend local elections because of his widely unpopular plan to introduce a sales tax, political analysts said Monday.

Mr. Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) held 11 prefectoral governorships but failed in a key contest to capture a governorship in Fukuoka, in southern Japan, which it lost four years ago, they said.

As had been expected, another LDP-backed candidate lost to a popular incumbent governor in Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. The incumbent was supported by the Japan Socialist Party.

With full results still awaited for 2,670 prefectoral assembly seats, the LDP had so far lost 92 seats they held at the time of the vote to the Socialists and Communists.

Mr. Nakasone told reporters: "I wouldn't say the proposed five per cent sales tax had no effect at all, but there were other factors, such as a low turnout and unusually cold weather."

But Noboru Goto, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a long-time

friend of Mr. Nakasone, said the sales tax had obviously had an impact on the LDP's showing.

"The government should take action (on the sales tax) in regard to the people's wishes," Mr. Goto said.

The Home Affairs Ministry said the average turnout for the 13 gubernatorial elections was a record low 59.78 per cent, while the prefectoral assembly polls drew an average of 66.66 per cent, also a record low.

Opposition parties said they regarded the elections as a referendum on the tax, part of a government move to reform Japan's tax system for the first time in 36 years, and would continue to demand its withdrawal.

Mr. Nakasone and other LDP leaders have already hinted they may delay implementing the tax, which had been scheduled for next January, and that they may cut its rate.

Last July Mr. Nakasone led his party to a landslide victory, winning 304 of the 512 seats in the lower house.

But since the introduction of the sales tax bill earlier this year, public opinion polls have shown his popularity rate rapidly falling to below 30 per cent.

COLUMNS 7G-8

Canton bans disco dancing for students

HONG KONG (R) — Canton's education authorities have banned disco dancing for students after an alarming decline in academic standards, a local newspaper reports. The Canton Evening Post said in its Sunday edition, which reached here Monday, that the decision was made by the city's Education Department, which said the quality of schoolwork had been falling in recent years. The newspaper said hotels and discoteques would be fined if they were found to have admitted students. Hotels and restaurants were ordered to discontinue afternoon "tea dances" for students. A dancing craze has swept the south China city since Peking introduced its open-door policy in 1979.

5 held for bid to smuggle panda hides

HONG KONG (R) — Five men were arrested in China for trying to smuggle out panda hides for sale in Hong Kong, an official Chinese news agency reported Monday. The China News Service, monitored in Hong Kong, said the five were arrested last week at Shantou, in the southern province of Guangdong, after they tried to smuggle out on fishing boats the hides of five giant pandas. China has banned the hunting of giant pandas, which are a protected species. The men told police they had agreed to sell the hides for 68,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$8,700) each to a businessman in the British colony, the China News Service said.

St. Clare's birthdate mystery solved

ASSISI, Italy (R) — Scientists said Monday they had determined the year in which Saint Clare was born from an examination of bone relics. The exact birthdate of Clare, a friend of Saint Francis and the founder of the religious order of the Poor Clares, had been uncertain. But tests on remains preserved in a glass case and visited by thousands of pilgrims every year indicate she was born in 1195; a scientific report said. The remains were returned to the church dedicated to the saint. They had been removed last November for the tests and for preservation treatment. Clare, who came from a wealthy Italian family, ran away from home as a teenager to join a nunnery attached to the community of Saint Francis. She died in 1253 and was canonised two years later.

Works of Salieri enjoy revival

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — The works of composer Antonio Salieri, whose fame was eclipsed by the genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, are enjoying a revival thanks to a college professor and, of course, Mozart. Salieri, whose rivalry with Mozart was dramatised in the 1984 film *Amadeus*, was featured in weekend concert that included the first public performance of one of his major works since his lifetime. Musicologist Jane Schatkin Hettrick, who has been studying Salieri's work since the 1960s, came across the 182-year-old manuscript for the Mass in B Flat in Salieri's own hand at a Vienna library in 1983. She made a copy of the work, which she described as unjustly neglected, and transcribed it into modern musical notation. The mass, believed to have been last heard publicly in 1822, was performed along with a 1773 Salieri organ concerto at Rider College in New Jersey, where Ms. Hettrick is an associate professor of music. The programme included a work by Beethoven, who studied under Salieri, but no Mozart. Salieri "was a composer of tremendous importance in his day," Ms. Hettrick said.

Illegal bookies net \$2.5 billion

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Illegal bookmaking syndicates in Singapore and Malaysia net five billion ringgit (\$2.5 billion) annually, police have said. Police Inspector-General Tan Sri Mohamad Haniffa Onn told reporters legitimate betting turnover on horse-racing was only a fraction of this sum. "It is for this reason that we and our Singapore counterparts are going all out to eradicate this menace," he said, adding that Malaysian police were seeking extra powers to combat illegal bookmaking. Horse race meetings are jointly organised by Malaysia and Singapore. Haniffa said the police figures came from intelligence reports.

Reagan backs Baby M decision

MANCHESTER N.H. (R) — President Reagan said in an interview that a court decision granting custody of "Baby M" to the couple who hired another woman to bear her was correct. "I do think that the judge made the right decision in the Baby M case," Mr. Reagan said, in an interview published by the Manchester Sunday News and Union Leader. "And I think it was a tragedy that the whole thing happened." The president, making his first public comments on the controversial surrogate mother case, said in an interview he gave the newspaper that a New Jersey court was correct in granting custody to William and Elizabeth Stern, who hired Mary Beth Whitehead to bear the baby.

Magnetic light bulb wins first prize

GENEVA (AP) — A Frenchman who invented a better light bulb won first prize out of some 1,000 entries at the 1987 Geneva International Invention Fair, organisers announced. Jean Fritsch, 42, a banker, invented a magnetic electric light bulb which makes it easier and safer to replace bulbs, a press release said. The base of the bulb consists of a metallic plate and the socket has two magnets sunk into plastic, the press release said. "With just one hand and no effort, the magnetic bulb can be fitted into the electric supply," it said. Fritsch has received some 50 offers for contracts from manufacturers and financiers since the fair opened on April 3, said the release. It listed advantages of the invention as lower production costs than the current system, longer bulb life and no risk of electrocution.

Clothed skeleton found in apartment

NEW YORK (AP) — A man who asked an elderly couple to rent him the basement apartment of their home found it occupied by a clothed skeleton, apparently the remains of the last tenant, police said Saturday. Investigators were having difficulty gaining information from the aged couple, but they believed the skeleton was that of a 65- to 80-year-old man whose first name was "Teddy," said police spokesman Norris Holloman. "He was possibly the handyman, who said if I clean up your place, I can live here," said Holloman. "And no one's seen him since. Another guy came today for the same thing and that's who found the skeleton." Holloman said investigators did not know when the dead man moved into the house in Brooklyn. They believed he had relatives in the city, but they had no other clues, Holloman said. The skeleton, found on the floor of the basement apartment, was clad in brown and white checkered pants, a green sweater and a blue jacket, Holloman said. Investigators did not know how long the man had been dead, he said. Police did not release the names of the home's elderly owners.

U.S. crime count drops in 1986

WASHINGTON (AP) — The amount of crime in the United States edged lower in 1986, continuing a trend that began five years ago, according to a federal survey of households. The number of rapes, robberies and burglaries rose last year, while there were declines in assaults, personal thefts and household larcenies, the Bureau of Justice statistics said in a report issued Sunday. Nearly 34.2 million crimes were committed in 1986, down 1.9 per cent from 34.9 million the previous year, the bureau reported. The crime count for 1985 had been the lowest in the history of the survey, which began in 1973. The peak year for crime in the survey's 14-year history was 1981, when 41.5 million crimes were committed. The decline has been steady since then, with some researchers attributing the trend to a decline in the size of the most crime-prone group, people in their late teens and early 20s.

U.S. may raze new Moscow embassy

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. officials, fearing the new U.S. embassy in Moscow is so riddled with listening devices it may have to be torn down, say Secretary of State George Shultz will raise the issue in his Kremlin talks.

"We may have to get to the point" of having to raze the new embassy building, Arthur Hartman, former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, said Sunday.

President Reagan on Saturday warned the Soviet Union that its espionage activities had gone too far and said Mr. Shultz would raise the issue in his talks. Mr. Shultz, arriving in Moscow Monday, is to meet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and will probably also see Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Hartman, who only recently left his Moscow post, said in a television interview that he accepted responsibility for the breakdown in security at the embassy.

"I think I failed in terms of a lack of imagination as to whether a Marine ... would actually go to the extreme of committing treason," he said.

Manila foils plot to seize foreign schoolchildren

MANILA (R) — A coup plot in which disgruntled soldiers planned to hold children hostage at Manila's International School and force President Corazon Aquino's step down has been "temporarily neutralised," intelligence sources and a general said Monday.

Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre told reporters forces loyal to Mrs. Aquino had taken pre-emptive steps by securing the school and vital installations the rebel group had planned to seize before May 11 legislative elections.

He hinted that forces loyal to deposed President Ferdinand Marcos were behind the plot, saying it was connected with three previous coup attempts thwarted by the military.

He called the plot, allegedly

campaign to undermine U.S.-Soviet relations by U.S. hardliners.

"Some people probably are interested in spoiling the atmosphere and to make it difficult for us to deal with serious problems instead of having this scandal about the hanging," former Soviet diplomat Valentin Berezhkov said in a television interview.

Under an agreement between the two countries, Soviet diplomats will not be allowed to move into their new embassy building last week and who heads a House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee with oversight of embassy security.

Recent allegations that U.S. Marines allowed Soviets to penetrate the existing Moscow embassy and that the new complex has been extensively bugged have cast a shadow over this week's trip to Moscow by Mr. Shultz.

Soviet officials have countered that they have been the object of U.S. snooping efforts and that the latest reports of Soviet espionage activity are part of a

Hindu refugees refuse to return to Punjab

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — More than 1,300 Hindu families who fled Sikh terrorism in Punjab have refused all inducements to leave the capital and return to their strife-torn Sikh-dominated state, the United News of India (UNI) reported.

UNI said Sunday a committee of Hindu and Sikh leaders failed to persuade the 1,336 families registered in New Delhi to return home to Punjab.

The growing Hindu-Sikh divide in the northern Punjab state is considered a formidable problem for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"None of us will return until complete normalcy is restored in the state," said Tilak Raj, president of the Oppressed Hindu Families Organisation, the major refugee group.

"We need no persuasion and financial help from the government," said Bista Ram, a migrant. "We will return to our homes, the day Punjab becomes normal."

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, announcing the 10-day ceasefire on Friday, said the security forces would take defensive action if they were attacked.

He said the security forces were unilaterally ceasing offensive action to enable both the Sikh and Tamil communities to celebrate peacefully their new year, which dawns Tuesday according to astrologers.

Punjab officials said the committee offered a package including a lower income group house at a fixed price near the capital of Chandigarh, an industrial plot and a subsidised bank loan of 25,000 rupees (\$2,000).

At first, 80 families agreed to return, said committee Chairman Maj. Singh Uboke, the Punjab revenue minister. But he said they were dissuaded "at the insistence of some Hindu organisations."

"We need no persuasion and financial help from the government," said Bista Ram, a migrant. "We will return to our homes, the day Punjab becomes normal."

Recently Sikh fundamentalists have been attacking Hindu-run liquor, cigarette, tobacco, mustard, poultry shops to enforce a new Sikh austerity.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Hindus have fled strife-torn terrorist areas to safer parts of the state. Hindus also have moved to neighbouring states, but there is no complete nationwide total.

Sikhs, in turn, have fled New Delhi and other areas in response to backlash riots by Hindus. No complete statistics are available.

Tamil rebels kill 5

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil rebels killed five civilians to lamp-posts and shot them dead and also attacked military camps with mortar bombs despite the Sri Lankan government's unilateral ceasefire, the government said Monday.

It said in a statement that the lamp-post killings were committed by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group on Saturday night in the eastern district of Trincomalee.

The Tigers have pinned notes on the victims, three Tamils and two Malays, including a woman, saying that they were executed for being traitors, the statement said.

Officials said the Tigers usually punished police informants by tying them to lamp-posts and shooting them in the head.

Rebels, fighting for an independent homeland for Tamils on the Sinhalese-dominated island, attacked military camps on the northern Jaffna peninsula with mortar bombs on Saturday, when the government's ceasefire came into operation, the statement said.

It said its security forces adhered to the ceasefire and did not retaliate since the homemade bombs fell short of their targets.

Three security men were injured by a rebel mine explosion on Saturday near an army camp at Thondamanar in Jaffna, the statement said.

Sen. Hart, fighting an uphill battle to address reporters on the front lawn of his home at Troublesome Gulch, west of Denver, but when he was told there were to be 162 reporters present, and that stands for television cameras and photographers were necessary, he changed his mind.

Sen. Hart, who challenged the 1984 Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale until shortly before the 1984 Democratic National Convention, has managed to pay off all but about \$1.3 million of a campaign debt of nearly \$5 million.

At reception Sunday night, Dixon told reporters, "that debt will be paid before the American public begins counting its ballots" in the current campaign.

Sen. Hart's collection effort will exceed a policy from his 1984 campaign.

"We're going to pay our debt